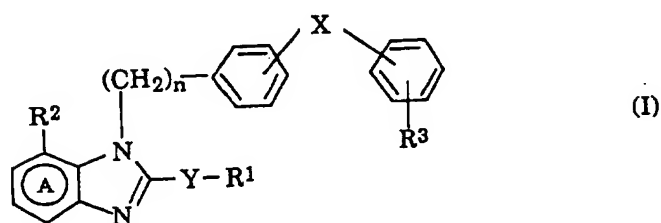


-23-

What is claimed is:

1. A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of

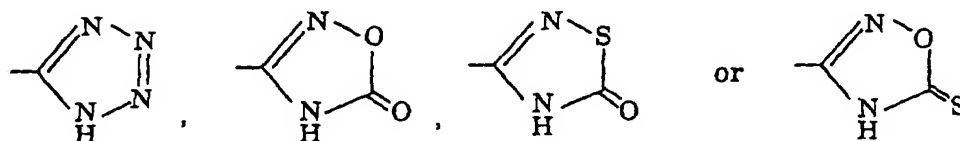
glomerulonephritis in a mammal comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound or salt thereof represented by formula (I)



wherein  $R^1$  stands for H or an optionally substituted hydrocarbon residue;  $R^2$  stands for an optionally esterified carboxyl group;  $R^3$  stands for a group capable of forming an anion; X shows that the phenylene and phenyl groups bond to each other directly or through a spacer having an atomic chain length of two or less; n stands for 1 or 2; ring A stands for a benzene ring having 1 or 2 optional substituents in addition to  $R^2$ ; Y stands for a bond, -O-, -S(O)<sub>m</sub>- wherein m stands for 0, 1 or 2, or -N( $R^4$ )- wherein  $R^4$  stands for H or an optionally substituted alkyl group.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein  $R^1$  stands for a lower alkyl or lower cycloalkyl group which may be substituted.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein  $R^1$  stands for ethyl.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein  $R^1$  stands for ethyl and Y stands for -O-.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein  $R^2$  stands for a group represented by the formula  $-\text{CO}-\text{D}''$  wherein  $\text{D}''$  stands for hydroxyl, or lower ( $\text{C}_{1-4}$ ) alkoxy whose alkyl moiety is optionally substituted with hydroxyl, amino, halogen, lower ( $\text{C}_{2-6}$ ) alkanoyloxy, lower ( $\text{C}_{4-7}$ ) cycloalkanoyloxy, lower ( $\text{C}_{1-6}$ ) alkoxycarbonyloxy, lower ( $\text{C}_{3-7}$ ) cycloalkoxycarbonyloxy or lower ( $\text{C}_{1-4}$ ) alkoxy.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein  $R^2$  stands for a lower alkoxycarbonyl group substituted with cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein  $R^3$  is an optionally substituted 5-7 membered monocyclic heterocyclic residue having a hydrogen atom capable of leaving as a proton.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein  $R^3$  stands for one of the following:



9. The method of claim 8 wherein  $R^3$  stands for tetrazolyl.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein  $R^2$  stands for a lower alkoxycarbonyl group substituted with a cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy group and  $R^3$  stands for a tetrazolyl group.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein  $R^1$  stands for a lower alkyl group; Y stands for  $-\text{O}-$ ;  $R^2$  stands for a lower alkoxycarbonyl group substituted with a cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy group; and  $R^3$  stands for a tetrazolyl group.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein said compound represented by formula (I) is  $(\pm)$ -1-(cyclohexyloxycarbonyloxy)ethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said compound represented by formula (I) is 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein said compound represented by formula (I) is pivaloyloxymethyl 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-7-carboxylate.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein said compound represented by formula (I) is 2-ethoxy-1-[[2'-(4,5-dihydro-5-oxo-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)biphenyl-4-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-7-carboxylic acid.

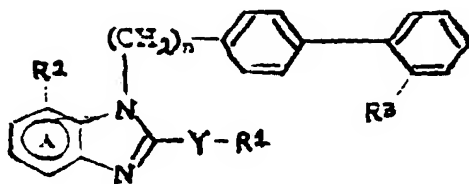
16. The method of claim 1, wherein  $R^2$  stands for a carboxyl group.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein  $R^3$  stands for 4,5- dihydro-5-oxo-1, 2, 4-oxadiazol-3-yl.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is a method of treatment.

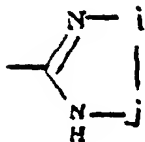
19. A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of

glomerulonephritis in a mammal comprising the step of administering to a mammal in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound or salt thereof represented by formula :



-26-

wherein  $R^1$  stands for H or a lower ( $C_1$ - $C_4$ ) alkyl;  $R^2$  stands for a group represented by the formula  $-CO-D''$  where  $D''$  stands for hydroxy or a lower ( $C_1$ - $C_4$ ) alkoxy group, the alkyl moiety of which optionally is substituted with hydroxy, amino, halogen, lower ( $C_2$ - $C_6$ ) alkanoyloxy, lower ( $C_4$ - $C_7$ ) cycloalkanoyloxy, lower ( $C_1$ - $C_6$ ) alkoxy carbonyloxy, lower ( $C_3$ - $C_7$ ) cycloalkoxy carbonyloxy or lower ( $C_1$ - $C_4$ ) alkoxy;  $R^3$  stands for a tetrazolyl, carboxyl group or a group represented by the formula



where  $i$  stands for  $-O-$  or  $-S-$  and  $j$  stands for  $>C=O$ ,  $>C=S$  or  $>S(O)_m$  is 0, 1 or 2;  $n$  stands for 1 or 2; ring A stands for a benzene ring; Y stands for O, N(H) or S.